IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA NORTHERN DIVISION

STATE OF ALABAMA,

Plaintiff.

Civil Action No. 2:06cv00920-MHT

-against-

ABBOTT LABORATORIES, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

DEFENDANT DEY, L.P.'S MOTION TO STAY CONSIDERATION OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO REMAND PENDING TRANSFER TO THE MDL COURT

Defendant Dey, L.P. ("Dey"), by and through counsel, moves the Court to stay consideration of Plaintiff State of Alabama's motion to remand pending transfer of this action to the MDL Court, *In re Pharmaceutical Industry Average Wholesale Price Litigation*, MDL No. 1456, and as grounds therefor, states as follows:

- 1. On October 11, 2006, Dey removed this action and removed or supplemented its removal papers in fourteen other nearly identical actions on the grounds that the filing of a suit by the United States triggered a federal statute, 31 U.S.C. §3732(b), that conferred federal jurisdiction on the respective federal courts to adjudicate the state actions.
- 2. To date, remand motions have been filed by Alabama, Wisconsin, Illinois, Florida, Hawaii, and Mississippi.
- 3. Unless stays are granted, it is likely that fifteen District Courts will be considering essentially the same motions to remand. All of the motions will involve common, complex factual and legal issues. This will not only create massive inefficiency and duplication of work

by the Courts and counsel, but also will pose a substantial risk of conflicting decisions on the same issue.

- 4. On the other hand, a stay will not cause any prejudice to plaintiff, as only minimal delay in these proceedings is likely and discovery is proceeding under arrangements previously agreed to by counsel
- 5. On October 13, 2006, Dey filed "tag along" notices with the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ("JPML") requesting that all the newly removed actions be transferred to Judge Patti Saris of the District of Massachusetts who was appointed in April 2002, by the JPML, to oversee *In re Pharmaceutical Industry Average Wholesale Price Litigation*, MDL No. 1456 (the "AWP Litigation"). The JPML is expected to act in the coming weeks.
- 6. In appointing Judge Saris, the JPML noted that that "[c]entralization of all actions . . . in the District of Massachusetts will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of this litigation...[and] avoid further duplication of discovery, prevent inconsistent or repetitive pretrial rulings, and conserve the resources of the parties, their counsel and the judiciary." *In re Immunex Corp. Average Wholesale Price Litig.*, 201 F. Supp.2d 1378, 1380 (J.P.M.L. 2002).
- 7. As a result of numerous proceedings in her Court, Judge Saris has extensive background on the issues in the AWP Litigation in general and with removal/remand issues in particular. As Judge Saris observed only last week in an order dated October 24, 2006 denying a motion to remand a case filed by the State of Arizona, she is in the best position to uniformly address the important national issues implicated in these cases:

As the judge assigned the massive multi-district litigation, involving class actions and numerous attorney general suits, I conclude that the issue of the meaning of AWP under the federal Medicare statute has national significance. A federal forum

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provides experience, solicitude and uniformity on this important federal issue.

In re Pharm. Ind. Average Wholesale Price Litig., MDL No. 1456, 2006 WL 3019193, at *4 (D. Mass. Oct. 24, 2006) (citing Grable. & Sons Metal Products, Inc. v. Darue Eng'g & Mfg., 545 U.S. 308, 312 (2005)).

- 8. As Judge Saris points out in her October 24 decision, there are already conflicting remand decisions by different courts looking at the same issue in the same type of case.
- 9. In the interest of uniformity, not to mention efficiency, Dey requests that this Court stay the remand motion pending the transfer of this action by the JPML to Judge Saris.
- 10. In support of its motion, Dey files herewith a memorandum with attached exhibits.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Dey moves the Court to stay consideration of plaintiff's motion to remand pending transfer of this action to the MDL Court, and for such other and further relief as the court deems appropriate.

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Dated this 31st day of October, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 31, 2006, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to counsel. I further certify that I have, on this day, served the foregoing on counsel of record shown on the attached Service List through the LexisNexis File and Serve system, pursuant to Case Management Order No. 2.

Filed 10/31/2006

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